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7 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Carter

SUBJECT : Attached MISTIC Proposal

1. I have reviewed the attached proposal prepared in OSI. While it is appreciated that this is a very important problem area requiring review and actions directed toward improved intra-community effort, I have a number of questions and reservations concerning the proposal as presented in the attached document.

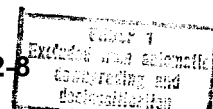
2. A course of action which involves so many intelligence and non-intelligence agencies should receive, prior to final action by the DCI, the benefit of a thorough review by the agencies concerned. Such review should include, for instance, consideration of the following factors:

a. The scope to be encompassed by the proposed MISTIC organization. While the problem as stated limits itself to foreign missile testing and space events, as does the proposed Executive Order, the opening paragraph of the supporting Recommendation expands the scope to "intelligence on foreign missile and space events," an expansion which is further to be found in the proposed terms of reference for the central analysis facility, in the Discussion section of the proposal, and in the proposed Organization in Tab "B".

b. The alternative means which are available, or could be made available, to improve coordination and effect other significant improvements relative to intelligence on foreign missile testing and space events, without creation of a new management organization cutting across Departmental command channels.

c. The very complicated interplay between the generally-stated field of MISTIC concern (collection and processing of information on foreign missile tests and space events) and the basic responsibilities of the Department of Defense and its components with respect to early warning and other military operational requirements in this field.

d. The potentially complicated relationships between the proposed MISTIC organization and various non-intelligence Departments or Agencies which have a deep and continuing interest in the field of space activities.



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e. The relationship between the proposed centralized collection tasking functions of MISTIC and its implied authority to direct operational collection elements, versus the presently established mechanisms for providing guidance and command channels for direction to the same collection elements, not only regarding intelligence on missiles and space but on many other priority fields.

f. The practicability of establishing, in such a broad field, a "central repository for the orderly storage of all technical data bearing on the missile/space problem" (Tab "B").

g. Potential new problems which the creation of MISTIC might bring about in coordination, duplication and overlap with other intelligence and operational activities.

h. The initial establishment costs (as well as operating costs) of the proposed organization, both in terms of money and of the increasingly scarce technical manpower which would be required.

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3. In summation, it is considered that the plan as proposed may well contain disadvantages which outweigh its advantages. Its feasibility should be determined by inter-agency consideration of such factors as those indicated above. For these reasons, it is strongly urged that the DCI direct that the proposal in its present limited and preliminary form be further examined in consultation with other responsible agencies.

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